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Director & State Health Officer

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)  
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)  
Joint Meeting  
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
9:00 a.m.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

The Vital Statistics Advisory Committee was held on April 13, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present via telephone:

- Sun Lee, MPH, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Erlinda Valdez, California Funeral Directors Association
- Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD., University of Southern California
- Jonathan Teague, Manager, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)

California Department of Public Health staff present:

- Ellen Badley, MPH, Branch Chief
- Laura Lund, Science Advisor (SA)
- Michelle Miles, Section Chief
- Henry Montes, Unit Chief
- Cindy Tanaka-Fong, Research Analyst
- Colin Chew, Research Analyst

Public Attendees present via telephone:

- David Moore, Pitzer College
- Karen Henderson, OSPHD

## **B. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Montes informed those present that the meeting was being recorded to assist with note taking purposes, and that the meeting complied with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Public attendees were asked to reserve any comments until the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

## **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

On **MOTION** by Erlinda Valdez and **SECONDED** by Jonathan Teague, the committee unanimously recommended to approve the previous meeting's minutes as written.

## **D. ATTACHMENT 1 – STATE REGISTRAR’S RESPONSE TO VSAC RECOMMENDATIONS**

The State Registrar adopted all five (5) items listed in Attachment 1.

## **E. ATTACHMENT 2 – CONSENT CALENDAR**

On **MOTION** by Jonathan Teague and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

Project Title: Assessment of Health Care Spending in California  
Patients with Liver Disease

Principal Investigator: Mindie Nguyen, Stanford University

Project Type: New Project

Data Requested: 2005-2011 Linked PDD/EDD/AS/Death Data

Project Title: Factors Associated with the Closure of Emergency  
Services & Impact on Patient Outcomes; Effect of  
Unemployment on ED Utilization in California

Principal Investigator: Renee Hsia, MD, University of California, San  
Francisco

Project Type: Continuing Project with Changes to the Protocol

Data Requested: 2005-2011 EDD/Linked Death Data

Project Title: Chronic Disease in California, 2007-2016

Principal Investigator: Janet Bates, MD, CDPH, Center for Chronic  
Disease Prevention

Project Type: Continuing Project

Data Requested: 2014 California Comprehensive Death File,  
2014 Non-Public Patient Discharge Data,  
2014 Non-Public Emergency Department,  
2014 Non-Public Ambulatory Surgery Data

**Discussion:** It was noted that the project by Janet Bates was incorrectly listed on the Consent Calendar and should have been in New Business, and Dr. Xu’s project listed in New Business should have been on the Consent Calendar.

## **F. ATTACHMENT 3 – DISCUSSION ITEMS – NEW BUSINESS**

1. Project Title: Hospital Variation in Obstetric Care  
Principal Investigator: Xiao Xu, PhD., Yale University  
Project Type: Continuing with Changes to the Protocol  
Data Requested: 2007-2015 Linked POD/ED/AS/Birth Files

**Discussion:** None

On **MOTION** by Sun Lee and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

2. Project Title: Mental Rotation in Human Infants  
Principal Investigator: David Moore, PhD., Pitzer College  
Project Type: Continuing with Changes to the Protocol  
Data Requested: Monthly Birth Data (October 1, 2015 – July 1, 2018) (select variables)  
Monthly Death Data (October 1, 2015 – July 1, 2018) (select variables)

**Discussion:** The Committee asked when a PI requests data for a specific jurisdiction; does the state only provide data for that specific jurisdiction? The SA clarified that this is correct but only the minimum data necessary.

On **MOTION** by Jonathan Teague and **SECONDED** by Sun Lee, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

3. Project Title: California Health Interview Survey  
Principal Investigator: Ninez Ponce, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles  
Co-Principal Investigator: David Grant, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles  
Project Type: New Project  
Data Requested: 2009-2014 Death Files (select variables)

**Discussion:** The Committee had concerns with data retention for ongoing projects. The SA advised the Committee they need to be aware that once the files are reviewed and a recommendation is made to the State Registrar, unless there is a resubmission of the application for additional data or to revise the application in the future, the

Committee never sees the application or research protocol again. If the Committee does not set an expiration date, the researcher can retain the data indefinitely unless the Committee stipulates that they return or destroy the data and come back to the Committee with a continuing application to get permission to retain the data.

The SA suggested this be discussed further and placed on a future agenda as a discussion item.

On **MOTION** by Jonathan Teague and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

4. Project Title: Maternal and Infant Health Assessment  
Principal Investigator(s): Paula Braveman, MD, University of San Francisco  
Co-Principal Investigator: Kristen Marchi, University of San Francisco  
Project Type: Continuing Project with Changes to the Protocol  
Data Requested: 2016 Monthly Birth Files (select variables)

**Discussion:** None

On **MOTION** by Sun Lee and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

5. Project Title: Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) Study  
Principal Investigator: Steven Jacobsen, MD, Kaiser Permanente  
Project Type: Continuing Project with No Changes to the Protocol  
Data Requested: 2014-2017 Birth File (select variables)  
2014-2017 Death File (select variables)  
2013-2017 Fetal Death File (select variables)  
2014 Multiple Causes of Death (select variables)

**Discussion:** The SA advised the Committee that the researcher previously revised the CPHS protocol. CDC is the Co-Principal Investigator and could share data across the organizations. Only one individual is listed on the application that would have access to the data, and would be doing the linkage of the data and handling the identifiable portion of the Vital Records data.

On **MOTION** by Jonathan Teague and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

6. Project Title: The Development of Object Representation  
Principal Investigator: Lisa Oakes, Ph.D., University of California, Davis  
Project Type: Continuing Project with No Changes to the Protocol  
Data Requested: Monthly Birth Files (January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2020) (select variables)  
Monthly Death Files (January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2020) (select variables)

**Discussion:** None

On **MOTION** by Sun Lee and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

7. Project Title: The Health and Housing Market Effects of Air Pollution  
Principal Investigator: Daniel Sullivan, Harvard University  
Project Type: New Project  
Data Requested: 1994-2005 Birth Files (select variables)  
1994-2005 Fetal Death Files (select variables)

**Discussion:** The SA informed the Committee that the requester would only get the requested records.

On **MOTION** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein and **SECONDED** by Jonathan Teague, the committee unanimously recommended that the State Registrar approve the use of the data as described in the protocol.

#### **G. ATTACHMENT 4 – RECAP OF DATA REQUESTS APPROVED IN THE HEALTH INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SECTION:**

The committee reviewed the list of data requests approved in the Health Information and Research section.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

#### **I. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

Mr. Teague inquired about requests from the local health departments for the linked files. The SA advised as CDPH moves forward with the

deployment of VRBIS, the local health departments will have all their data (birth, death, fetal death). CDPH would no longer be handling the county level data for the linkage described by Mr. Teague. The SA suggested a meeting be set up between OSHPD and CDPH to further discuss the linkage functionality for local health departments.

#### **J. MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

On **MOTION** by Jonathan Teague and **SECONDED** by Emily Putnam-Hornstein, the committee unanimously recommended to approve adjourning the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.